Vanilla, too, is said to have owed its introduction into general use to Jews: this report finds confirmation in the fact that when in 1684 a certain Salamon de la Roche died in the Dutch colony of Essequibo, the secret of preparing the vanilla-bean for the market died with him.

Indigo was also a staple article of Jewish international commerce, and the cultivation was introduced by this agency into North America. This links up with the participation in the dyeing industry in the Mediterranean world in the Middle Ages in the one direction, and with the establishment of aniline dyeing in northern Europe, in modern times, in the other. As early as the thirteenth century, under the Emperor Frederick II, African Jews were given Crown lands to develop indigo plantations in Sicily. Five hundred years later, a certain Dr. Nunes first introduced the growth to Georgia, while Moses Lindo, coming from London in 1756, invested a fortune in fostering it in South Carolina. It is a striking exemplification of the continuity of Jewish interest in certain types of industry, in all its branches, for very many generations.

It was perhaps fitting that Europe owed to the Jews some of its cleanliness as well as godliness. A great centre for the manufacture of Castile Soap in the Middle Ages was Marseilles: here, it was introduced in 1371 (it is said) by the Jew Crescas Davin, known as *sabonarius.*

But the story does not end here. Four centuries later, in 1761, the same process took place in

America, when the General Assembly of Rhode Island empowered James Lucena of Newport to set up a manufactory of Castile Soap according to the process which he had learned in Spain. At the same period, Jacob Rodrigues Rivera introduced to the Colony the Spermaceti industry, with its off-shoot of candle-making; and it was because of this that Newport became the great whaling